I claim:

understood that the invention is not limited thereto, but may be otherwise variously embodied and practiced within the scope of the following claims.

vacuum process Α apparatus for processing at least one workpiece, comprising a chamber with[:] at least defining respective openings opening areas [for one of treating and handling said least one workpiece thereat]; and transport device[, comprising] having drive shaft a around rotatable of rotational axiis said drive shaft; least two [arranged at said conveyors transport device] for least one workpièce each[, transport device comprising], and a transport/ \cdot for each conveyor [projecting from] operatively associated with said drive shaft; said arms being operatively coupled to said to move said conveyors conveyors <u>independent</u> each other relative to said <u>drive</u> shaft.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, said openings defining an opening area each, with normals on said opening areas being warped with respect to said rotational axis.

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3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said conveyors are movable at least one of parallel to said drive shaft and of normally with respect to said drive shaft.

- 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said conveyors, once positioned adjacent one of said openings by rotation of said transport device, are movable towards and from said opening in a normal direction of said opening areas.
- 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein rotation of said transport device around said rotational axis substantially define a cone shaped trajectory surface with a cone opening angle with respect to said rotational axis of not more than 90°.
- 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein each of said openings defines an opening area, with normals on said opening areas pointing in a direction of respective generatrix of said cone-shaped trajectory surface.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said openings are arranged along a circle cut by said cone-shaped trajectory surface by a geometric plane arranged perpendicularly to said rotational axis.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, said transport device residing within said chamber further comprising at least one of a load lock chamber and of a station for treating said workpiece communicating by one of said openings

with said chamber.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising gas inlet means and pumping means at least at one of said

station and chambers.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of said conveyors comprise a seal member for sealingly closing one of said openings when said at least one conveyor is rotated adjacent to said opening by said transport device.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said seal member is formed by a conveyor plate for said workpiece.

- 12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each said conveyor comprises a conveyor plate with a projecting positioning pin for positioning a disk shaped workpiece with a central bore.
- 13. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising holding means for said workpiece on said conveyor
- 14. The apparatus of claim 13, said holding means being formed by spring means acting radially with respect to said pin.
- 15. The apparatus of claim 1, said workpiece being one of compact disk workpieces and of magneto-optical storage disk workpieces.

vacuum chamber Α processing at least one comprising workpiece, least\ two openings defining opening areas respective treating or handling said at least one workpiece a transport device thereat]; drive shaft with transport said rotating device around a rotational axis of said drive shaft; at conveyors two least [arranged at sàid transport thè workpiece for device transport said thereat, device further comprising]_ and a transport arm for each [projecting from conveyor operatively associated with said shaftl; drive said being <u>each</u> arms] and operatively coupled to of said conveyors to move said conveyors independently <u>each other</u> relative said <u>drive</u> shaft.





17. The chamber of claim 16, wherein each of sample openings defines an opening area with, normals on said opening areas being warped with respect to said rotational axis.

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18. The chamber of claim 16, wherein said conveyors are movable at least one of parallel to said rotational axis and of normally with respect to said rotational axis.

- 19. The chamber of claim 16, wherein said conveyors, once positioned adjacent one of said openings by rotation of said transport device, are movable towards and from said opening in a normal direction of said opening areas.
- 20. The chamber of claim 16, wherein rotation of said transport device around said rotational axis substantially defines a cone-shaped trajectory surface with a cone opening angle with respect to said rotational axis of not more than 90°.
- 21. The chamber of claim 20, wherein each of said openings define an opening area with, normals on said opening areas pointing in a direction of respective generatrix of said cone-shaped trajectory surface.

22. The chamber of claim 21, wherein said openings are arranged along a circle intersected by said cone-shaped trajectory surface by a geometric plane arranged perpendicular to said rotational axis.

23. The chamber of claim 16, wherein at least one of said conveyors comprise a seal member for sealingly closing one of said openings when said at least one conveyor is rotated adjacent to said opening by said transport device.

24. The chamber of claim 23, wherein said seal member is formed by a conveyor plate for said at least one workpiece.

25. The chamber of claim 16, wherein said conveyors comprises a conveyor plate with a projecting positioning pin for positioning a disk shaped workpiece with a central bore.

26. The chamber of claim 25, further comprising holding means for said at least one workpiece on said conveyor plate.

27. The chamber of claim 16, wherein said holding means is formed by spring means acting radially with respect to said pin.

28. The chamber of claim 16, wherein said conveyors are configured to hold workpieces in the form of one of compact disk workpieces and of magneto-optical storage disk workpieces.

29. The chamber of claim 16, wherein said conveyors comprise a support plate with an upstanding pin; spring loaded holding portions around said pin being biased radially outwardly with respect to said pin, and further comprising holding portions projecting outwardly with respect to said pin and being biased slightly outside the surface of said pin.

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vacuum chamber 30. A least two openings workpiece transport with which_ arrangement one workpiece within least chamber is selectively the into a. position <u>brought</u> one ofsaid to adjaceht_ whereby the openinds. arrangement transport provided within the chamber rotatably around rotational axis and carries least \ two members for holding a workpiece each, a rotation drive is provided rotate \said workpiece akrangement, transport_ least two displacement provided drives are displacing said at least one workpiece each with respect transport said t o arrangement whereby selectively members are position into <u>a \</u> brought with one of said aligned openings by rotation of arrangement transport position such from displaceable workpiece__ from and towards <u>of</u> opening one displacement drives said and member drives displacement_ operatively mounted on said transport arrangement rotation drive.

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31. vacuum chamber least two openings with at workpiece transport a with which at <u>arrangement\</u> least one workpiece within the chamber is selectively position brought <u>into</u> <u>of</u> to on'e adjacent whereby openings, arrangement transport provided within the chamber rotatably around rotational axis and carries least two members holding a workpiece each a rotation drive is provided

rotate said workpiece arrangement, transport two displacement least provided for <u>drives</u> <u>are</u> displacing said at least one workbiece each with respect said transport whereby <u>arrangement</u> selectively member's are position into a brought\ one of said with aliqned \ openings by rotation of said arrangement transport position sudh from <u>displaceable</u> <u>workpiece</u> and from towards of one by opening drives displacement <u>radial</u> wit\h direction relative to component and <u>rotational</u> axis drives <u>displacement</u> operable independently each other.

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32 A vacuum chamber, comprising

<u>least</u> defining respective openings areas; opening device operatively transport\ relative to the at arranged openings and <u>twb</u> <u>least</u> member movable including rotational а <u>relative</u> at least two axis thereof transporting conveyors for workpiece each, at least one <u>linear</u> least one drive for each of said at two conveyors being least operatively coupled between said movable member and respective conveyor of said <u>at least two conveyors and</u> configured to limearly move said respective conveyors movable <u>relative to</u> said <u>independently</u> other conveyors of\ said at least two conveyors.

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with at least two openings and a workpiece transport arrangement with which at



<u>least one workpiece within</u> the chamber is selectively into brought a <u>position</u> <u>adjacent</u> to one of said <u>the</u> openings, <u>whereby</u> transport arrangement provided within the chamber <u>rotatably</u> <u>around</u> rotational axis and carries l\east one member <u>holding</u> workpiece а rotation drive is provided said rotate workpiece transport arrangement, and a sealed displacement drive is arranged <u>between</u> arrangement transport said at least one member for displacing a workpiece with respect to **said** transport arrangement, whereby said member is selectively position brought into aligned with <u>dne</u> of said openings by rotation of said transport arrandement such position <u>workpiece</u> is displaceable towards and from opening by said displacement drive, and said member said displacement drive operatively mounted relative said transport arrangement rotation drive.

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34. A method of processing at least one workpiece, comprising the steps of

rotating <u>transport</u> <u>device</u> member around a rotational axis to the bring at least one <u>adjacent</u> <u>workpiece</u> opening in a vacuum chamber <u>least</u> having at

openings, <u>and</u> at least moving with at least two conveyors movement component relative said <u>radial</u> rotational is, <u>a</u>` independently of each other <u>relative</u> to the transport member <u>device</u> so

selectively to move the at least one workpiece towards and away from the adjacent opening.

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